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Dear Sirs:

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE. It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - such an agonizing way to treat any form of life.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. People in the industry have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Taking away the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,  
Antoinette Bushlack

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